

## WHAT'S BINARY CODE?

To process and store data, computers use a simple coding system, called *binary code* ("bi" means two). Like a simple light switch which has only two positions—ON and OFF—computers encode data using only two binary digits—0 and 1, called *bits*. All letters (see *back*), digits, and special characters have been encoded with defined sequences of bits. Most modern character-encoding schemes use a binary string of eight bits.



